

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011 – 8:00 A.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Budget Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

Mayor Edward B. Morgan
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor
Mr. Jason N. Berry
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney
Mark Godbey, Treasurer/Dir. of Finance

Visitors:

Joey Burke

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Vice Mayor Lowe opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk called the roll and noted that Mayor Morgan would be late arriving to the meeting.
2. Joey Burke, Chief of the Abingdon Fire Department, addressed the Council members and provided information about their funding request for FY2011/2012. Mr. Burke indicated that he had requested funding for additional staff to work at the Fire Department so they can meet call demands and improve response time. Mr. Burke reported on his efforts to request funding from the Washington County Board of Supervisors and noted that a large portion of the calls the Abingdon Fire Department responds to are out in the county. Greg Kelly Town Manager recommended that the Council consider adopting a Resolution asking the County Board of Supervisors to fund a portion of the staffing request in light of the fact that Abingdon Fire Department responds to a large number of calls in the County. Council members agreed that they would consider a Resolution to that effect at their May meeting.

Mr. Kelly noted his concern that the County has not prepared an official emergency response plan as required.

3. Vice Mayor Lowe opened discussions about the reduction in funding from the Washington County Board of Supervisors for the Coomes Recreation Center. Discussion ensued about the current rates for the Coomes Center, proposed changes in the rates, and the number of Town residents and county residents that patronize the Center. Mr. Kelly recommended that the Council consider adopting a Resolution requesting that the County Board of Supervisors increase funding for Coomes Recreation Center as a large number of the patrons are county residents. Council members agreed that they would consider a Resolution to that effect at their May meeting.
4. Council members inquired about the status of the final installment of \$200,000 owed to the Town by the County Board of Supervisors to be used for ball fields which was part of the settlement of the Clifton-Stewart lawsuit. Mr. Kelly commented that the Town had not received the final installment. Council members agreed that Mr. Kelly would forward a letter to County Administrator, Mark Reeter requesting the final payment be made in accordance with the terms of the agreement.
5. Vice Mayor Lowe inquired about the proposed vehicle for use by the Horticulture Department.
6. Council members reviewed the advertising budget for the Tourism Department and discussion ensued regarding a brochure case located at Tri-city Regional Airport.
7. Mr. Kelly reported on the staffing plans for Heartwood as well as plans to acquire an additional trolley to provide transportation to/from Heartwood and the town.
8. Council members reviewed the budget for the Go Green committee. Mr. Kelly recommended that the Go Green Committee review the Town's affiliation with ICLEI and make a recommendation regarding continued membership.
9. Council members reviewed the budget for the Music Events program. Mrs. Lowe and Mr. Humphreys asked that the budget be increased by \$15,000 and requested that the additional funding be used for advertising.
10. Chief of Police, Tony Sullivan, presented a power point presentation regarding security issues for town facilities and town meetings. Chief Sullivan commented on recommendations with regard to conduct of meetings and identification of speakers during public comment periods.

Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk